

**From:** Jobs(a)impactsolutions.com  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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**Subject:** Microsoft

Hello,

The following is from [www.news.com](http://www.news.com):

3Microsoft, which recently reached an antitrust settlement with the U.S. Justice Department, is on the point of settling a raft of private antitrust cases, according to a report Tuesday.

The Wall Street Journal reported in its online edition that the software giant has tentatively agreed to give software and computers to more than 14,000 of the poorest U.S. schools over a five-year period, which would help resolve the majority of its pending private class-action lawsuits.<sup>2</sup>

I would suggest that you mandate that Microsoft purchase Macintosh computers and software to settle this case. Forcing another 14,000+ schools to use Windows and Microsoft software isn't a very harsh punishment - Money is like water to Microsoft and you are essentially allowing Microsoft to purchase market share.

In fact, Microsoft (along with Dell) has targeted schools as a growth area - one long dominated by Apple Computer. This so called settlement allows them to buy market share, which they will later tout to the detriment of Apple Computer.

Believe me, if this proposal is agreeable to Microsoft, there has to be an upside or they wouldn't even consider it.

Does this proposal provide a school with a choice of computer platform? If a school wants Macintosh Computers, is that OK under the terms of this settlement?

I don't see how this kind of settlement prevents Microsoft from using its monopolistic power to do further damage to competitors.

Definitely worth looking into.